

In the Claims:

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1-5. (Canceled)

6. An envelope having encoded thereon a fragile digital watermark representing plural bits of digital data, said watermark being designed to evidence reproduction by scanning and printing.

7. An envelope having encoded thereon a machine readable indicia that indicates, to suitably equipped devices, that image data corresponding to said envelope should not be reproduced.

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8. An envelope having steganographically encoded thereon a digital watermark representing postage.

9. The envelope of claim 8 in which the steganographic encoding takes the form of printing on said envelope.

10. The envelope of claim 9 in which said printing is with an ink designed for sensing in the ultraviolet or infrared spectra.

11. The envelope of claim 8 in which said encoding takes the form of texturing on the surface of said envelope.

12-18. (Canceled)

19. An envelope having formed thereon two machine readable indicia, a first of said indicia being a franking mark applied by a first party, the second of said indicia conveying data associated with an authorized user of said envelope, the first and second indicia cooperating to confirm that use of said envelope by the first party is authorized.

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